

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION

Conservation and Resource Development Division



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STATE OF MONTANA

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**DECISION NOTICE**  
**ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Wilsall Water District Water System Improvements Project  
March 2020  
Wilsall Water District  
Lat. 46.03051 | Long. -110.55092  
Park County

Existing Environmental Review Document:  
[Wilsall Water RD EA](#)

**Description of the proposed action**

The Wilsall Water District Water System Improvements Project with funding assistance from Park County will develop and implement long-term solutions to provide clean, safe, reliable drinking water for the Wilsall community, and bring the existing water system into compliance with current regulations. The preferred alternative for the District's water treatment system is Cartridge Filtration with Ion Exchange Nitrate Removal. The preferred alternatives for the distribution system include water main looping and asbestos cement pipe replacement.

The construction project will include a new ion exchange system to reduce nitrate levels, a new cartridge filtration system to bring the system into compliance with surface water treatment rules, looping in the distribution system to eliminate stagnant water, and replacing existing AC pipe throughout the system to prevent future water quality issues.

The project location is within the town of Wilsall, MT. See map on page 3.

Wilsall Water & Sewer District's wells have experienced elevated nitrate levels since 1993. In 2018, nitrate levels exceeded MCL 10mg/L and DEQ notified the District they were in violation of ARM 17.8.203 and must pursue corrective action. DEQ has required the District wells to comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rules. The District also has aging asbestos cement pipe that has exceeded its typical design life.

Project construction is expected to begin late May 2022 and complete March 2023.

**Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action:**  
DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the project.

**Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review**

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

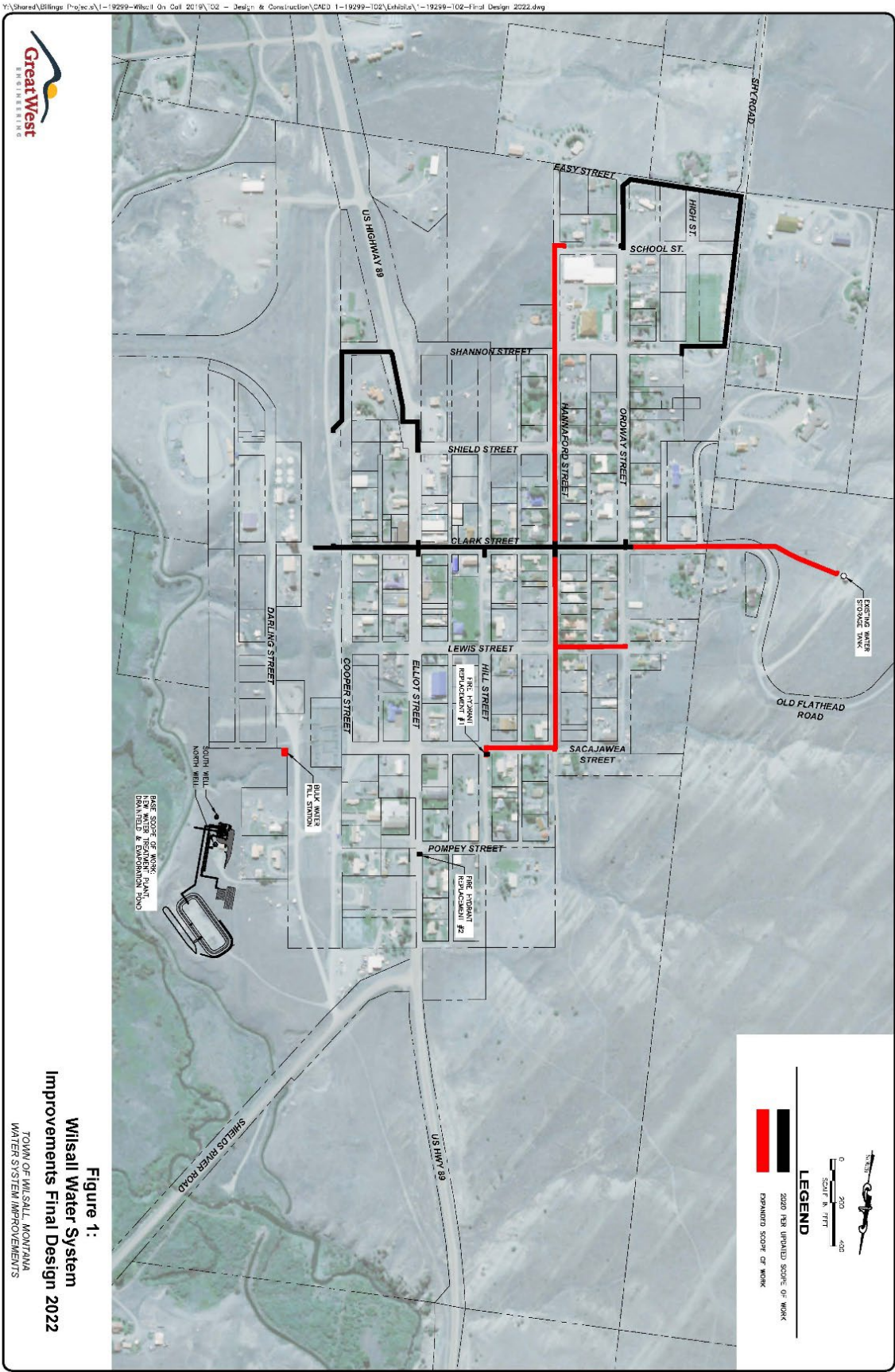
**Adopt**

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

<b>Existing Analysis Reviewed By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Shawna Swanz <b>Title:</b> ARPA Program Specialist <b>Email:</b> shawna.swanz@mt.gov	<b>Date:</b> 4/1/2022
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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator	
<b>Signature:</b>	<div><div>DocuSigned by:</div><div>Mark W Bostrom</div></div>	<b>Date:</b> 4/5/2022   12:22:16 PM MDT

Environment Review Documents and the Decision Notice for this project are available to the general public by request at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) at 1529 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Helena, MT. Phone (406) 444-3022.





United States Department of Agriculture

**Rural Development**

August 3, 2020

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TO: Donna Andreassi,  
Bozeman Area Community Programs Loan Specialist  
Montana Rural Development

FROM Justin Bailey  
RD Architect & Environmental Coordinator  
Architecture Services Branch-MT

SUBJECT: Wilsall Water District Environmental Report (ER) Review  
Water System Improvement Project

I have reviewed the ER dated January 2020, prepared by Great West Engineering. I have made the following determination and comment:

**Concurrence with Classification of Proposal**

The project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion Involving Small-Scale development with an Environmental Report (7 CFR 1954(b)(2))

**Acceptance of Environmental Report/Environmental Documentation**

The Environmental Report covers all required information and documentation per RD Instruction 1970-B, Exhibit C including but not limited to; Important farmland, wetlands, flood plain, historic properties SHPO/THPO, and endangered species. This provided Agency concurrence that the environmental documentation is acceptable.

In reference to Section 6. Summary of Mitigation for Wetlands. The USDA RD cannot fund or participate in any proposed Project Components that impact any wetland or in any planned mitigation for wetlands impacted for the proposed Project. My comment is for clarification only, as it is addressed that no known wetlands exist within the project area.

**Public Notification Requirements**

No public notices are required for the categorical exclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Bailey", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Justin Bailey  
RD Architect/Environmental Coordinator

Cc: Steve Troendle, USDA RD Community Program Director  
Karen Sanchez, USDA RD State Engineer  
Joel Pilcher, P.E., Great West Engineering, Inc  
Collette Anderson, P.E., Great West Engineering, Inc  
LaNette Jones; Great West Engineering, Inc.